

05/11/99

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

4643 '99 MAY 20 AIO:53

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food

To whom it may concern:

We are college students at Portland State University in Oregon who have recently learned about the process of irradiation. We support the recommendation by the Center for Science in the Public Interest regarding labeling of irradiated foods:

"any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be labeled with a written statement on the principle display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the international symbol. If the food is un-packaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale."

In it's initial petition the FDA concluded that irradiation was a "material fact" about the processing of food, and thus should be disclosed. The material fact remains; therefor the labeling should remain. If there is no label, consumers will be misled into believing the food has not been irradiated. Irradiation remains a new technology with no long-term or multi-generational human studies. Because of the newness of this technology and the need to assess public health effects from its widespread use, we believe that the FDA's requirement should not be permitted to expire.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Hill

Robert [unclear]

[unclear]

Angela Kimbro
Christina [unclear]

Kelly [unclear]

Tracy [unclear]

98N-1038

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